

MAY 11 2006

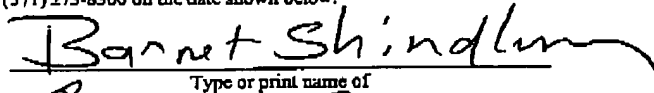
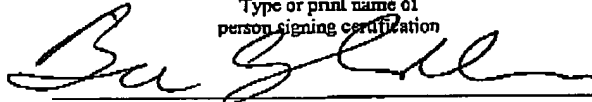
450106-02972

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Akira Sugiyama et al. Notice of Allowance  
Dated: 03/08/2006  
Serial No. : 09/937,871 Confirmation No. 8943  
Filed : October 1, 2001  
For : RECORDING APPARATUS, RECORDING METHOD,  
REPRODUCING APPARATUS, AND REPRODUCING METHOD  
Examiner : Chowdhury, Nigar  
Art Unit : 2626

745 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10151**FACSIMILE**

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May 11, 2006

Date of Signature

**RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which  
accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed March 8, 2006. To the extent the Examiner's  
Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are

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MAY 11 2006

allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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